DEPARTMENT OF BENEFIT PAYMENTS 744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



November 13, 1975

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 75-243

TO.

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

ALL COUNTY AUDITORS

ALL WELFARE FISCAL SUPERVISORS

ALL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICERS

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM - QUALITY CONTROL

SUBJECT:

REFERENCE:

Effective January 1, 1976, the Welfare Program Evaluation Branch of the Department of Benefit Payments will assume responsibility for conducting the federally required Food Stamp quality control reviews in all 58 counties. The federal sample will consist of approximately 1,200 reviews of active or participating cases and approximately 800 reviews of negative actions over each six month period. The sample will be selected by State staff from individual county files.

The Department of Benefit Payments has set as an objective the development of a consistent data base which will provide clear problem identification and a basis for effective corrective action planning. We have found in other quality control programs that the consistency and timeliness of data are enhanced by a centralized quality control operation. Therefore, the decision was made to assume responsibility for administration of Food Stamp quality control at the State level.

We appreciate the fine performance by those counties currently conducting the Food Stamp quality control reviews and congratulate them on completing 98 percent of the federally required case reviews for the January-June 1975 review period. The data from the quality control findings are being analyzed and will be released within one month. It is imperative that California maintain this high standard of performance throughout the present review period in order to comply with federal requirements. Counties currently involved with the July-December 1975 federal sample are responsible for the completion of the reviews in the manner prescribed in All-County Letter 75-144, but will not be required to do the federal reviews for the semiannual period beginning January 1, 1976. All review schedules (FNS-246) for the semiannual review period ending December 31, 1975 must be submitted to the Program Information Bureau by February 27, 1976.

The last required federal sample to be completed by county staff will be for the month of December 1975. However, funding will be continued for nonassistance Food Stamp quality control costs through March 31, 1976. This will allow for a

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one month transition period following completion of all review activities. After March 31, 1976, no federal or state reimbursement will be provided for county administrative costs incurred for nonassistance Food Stamp quality control.

Notice of the transfer of the Food Stamp quality control function to the State is being given at this time so that counties may plan for the impact this action will have. The County Administrative Expense Control Bureau (CAEC) will assist the counties in identifying the effect on their allocations caused by the deletion of this function at the county level. For assistance, please contact the County Administrative Expense Control Bureau at (916) 322-5802.

Any questions regarding the State's assumption of the Food Stamp quality control function should be addressed to Ruthell Ussery, Welfare Program Evaluation Branch, (916) 445-0220.

Sincerely,

GARY D. MACOMBER Deputy Director

cc: FNS, USDA CWDA

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